**New LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh**

1066. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned 15 lakh additional LPG connections in the Andhra Pradesh to be distributed among women members participating in self help groups; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to help other backward States in the same manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to release 15 lakh additional new LPG connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh under 'Deepam Scheme'. Under this scheme, State Government will be required to surrender corresponding kerosene quota per month and make the necessary security deposit against the number of connections actually released on behalf of beneficiaries. The facility of release of LPG connections against surrender of kerosene quota is available for all the States.

**Introduction of ULSD**

1067. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of transporters have argued in favour of introducing ULSD as it does not involve high capital cost unlike Compressed Natural Gas (CNG);

(b) whether there had been several CNG blasts recently in the capital; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Many transport organizations, namely Indian Tourist Transports Association, Delhi Contract Bus Association, DTC, DTC Private Bus Operators Welfare Association, Indian Association of Tour Operators have made representation to the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for

National Capital Region (NCR) in favour of using diesel of maximum 0.05% sulphur content.

(b) There was onc incident of blast of CNG cylinder at Delhi on 6.4.2001 due to use of spurious CNG cylinder.

(c) Subsequent to this incident, safty measures such as physical verification and logging details of vehicles and of CNG cylinder nos. have been started in Delhi.

**MoU between ASI and IOC for developing heritage sites**

1068 SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Archaeological Survey of India to develop five heritage sites in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the Memorandum of Understanding; and

(c) the steps taken to develop these sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Indian Oil Foundation (IOF) and the National Culture Fund (NCF), Government of India to implement the objectives of the OFI and develop heritage sites under the purview of the ASI.

Under the MoU, the IOF and the ASI shall, from time to time, in consultation with the NCF. identify the surrounding areas of the monuments to be developed with a view to developing, in course of time, at least onc monument in each State in India. The following heritage sites have been identified for development in the first phase:—

| Site | State |
|---|---|
| Qutub Minar | Delhi |
| Konark | Orissa |
| Kanhcri Caves | Maharashtra |
| Hampi | Karnataka |
| Khajuraho | Madhya Pradesh |